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fertilizing, drainage, and reforestation are needed. With proper conservation of its resources, Iceland should support many times its present population.

CARL O. SAUER.

The Botany of Iceland. Edited by L. Kolderup-Rosenvinge and Eug. Warming. Part 1: 1. The Marine Algal Vegetation. By Helgi Jónsson. 186 pp. Ills. 2. An Account of the Physical Geography of Iceland with special reference to the Plant Life. By Th. Thoroddsen. (Published by the aid of the Carlsberg Fund.) pp. 192-343. J. Frimodt, Copenhagen, 1914. 10½ x 7.

Section 1 of this important work deals with the marine vegetation and is written by Dr. Helgi Jónsson. The author gives a list of 200 species of marine algæ found along the coasts of Iceland. The life conditions of the marine vegetation (light, salinity, etc.), the horizontal distribution and the components of the algæ flora are considered in detail. An important chapter treats of the vertical distribution of the Icelandic algæ. Illustrated with a number of good photographs, the sixth chapter gives an account of the marine algal vegetation and the sea-grass vegetation, which the author arranges under the captions 1. The Littoral Zone: (a) the photophilous communities, (b) the shade vegetation, (c) the vegetation of the tidal pools; 2. The Semi-Littoral Zone with its several associations; 3. The Sublittoral Zone with its associations. The sea-grass vegetation comprises the Zostera association found especially on the muddy-clay bottoms. The author gives a useful summary of the periodic changes of the marine algæ throughout the year with a table of the fruiting periods of the species.

Section 2, Part I, published two years later in 1914, gives a comprehensive description of the physical geography of Iceland, its lowlands, snow mountains, plateaus, rivers, hot springs, geysers and snow fields. The geology is given in detail in connection with the volcanic activity displayed by Hekla and other volcanoes, with the deposit of lavas and beds of ashes. The main features of the climate are made prominent. Chapter IV treats of the general distribution of plant life and Chapter V is an interesting sketch of the chief plant formations of Iceland, such as that of the coast line, of the fresh water, wet soil, river gravels, rocky flats, sandy tracts, lava streams, the grassland, the home-field, the heather moors and birch coppices where *Betula Odorata* may grow to a height of 8-9 meters. JOHN W. HARSHBERGER.

Iceland: Horseback Tours in Saga Land. By W. S. C. Russell. xii and 314 pp. Ills., index. R. G. Badger, Toronto, 1914. $2. 8 x 5½.

The author's experience as geologist during the summer of 1911, in the Stackhouse expedition, and in his other visits to Iceland in 1909, 1910 and 1913, make a book of considerable interest to the earth scientist. On the other hand, the volume is well designed for popular reading. To the geologist the more or less fragmentary references to earth features are suggestive. A Tertiary tree, five inches in diameter, with replacements by zeolites and chalcedony, and the discovery of Pliocene shells indicate the possibilities of future work along this line on the east coast. Some lignitic beds were found, but the author declares against any probable extent of coal beds, because "the fierce volcanic fires would have destroyed this substance had it ever existed." He seems to have forgotten that anthracite beds of considerable importance have been developed by the baking due to intruded lavas. The great volcanic mass of Hecla, the geyser region and the numerous areas of extinct volcanoes are interestingly described. The industry and intelligence of the people and their honesty are emphasized. The photographs are numerous and excellent.

F. V. EMERSON.

WORLD AND PARTS OF IT

Social Forces in England and America. By H. G. Wells. 415 pp. Harper & Brothers, New York, 1914. $2. 9 x 6.

A collection of uncorrelated essays, ranging from Blériot's crossing of the English Channel by aeroplane, to the contemporary novel, the endowment of